

REVISIONS TO THE BUDGET AUTHORITY AND OUTLAY ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2015 PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302 AND 314(a) OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT OF 1974

[In millions of dollars]

	Current allocation/ limit	Adjustments*	Adjusted allocation/ limit
Fiscal Year 2015:			
Revised Security Category Discretionary Budget Authority	521,272	0	521,272
Revised Nonsecurity Category Discretionary Budget Authority	492,356	100	492,456
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays	1,160,500	43	1,160,543
Memorandum: Total Discretionary Budget Authority	1,013,628	100	1,013,728

* Pursuant to section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations will be adjusted following the reporting of bills, offering of amendments, or submission of conference reports that qualify for adjustments to the discretionary spending limits as outlined in section 251(b) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DETAIL ON ADJUSTMENTS TO FISCAL YEAR 2015 ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS PURSUANT TO SECTIONS 302 AND 314(a) OF THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ACT
(\$s in billions)

	Program integrity	Disaster relief	Emergency	Overseas contingency operations	Total
Agriculture:					
Budget Authority	0.000	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100
Outlays	0.000	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043
Total:					
Budget Authority	0.000	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100
Outlays	0.000	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043
Breakdown of Above Adjustments by Category:					
Revised Security Category Budget Authority	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Revised Nonsecurity Category Budget Authority	0.000	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.100
General Purpose Discretionary Outlays	0.000	0.043	0.000	0.000	0.043

VETERANS HEALTH CARE—H.R.
3230

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, last week the Senate passed H.R. 3230, Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act. Today, I rise to address some concerns my colleagues raised about whether veterans will be able to choose their own providers. Some may read section 301 of this bill to mean that VA is still in the driver seat. Specifically, that VA will be able to pick and choose which provider to contract with under this section and not offer veterans a true choice of where and from whom they receive their care. However, that is not our intent.

Our intent is to give veterans the choice of where and from whom they receive their care without interference from VA. Beyond that, H.R. 3230 provides that if a doctor or hospital approaches VA and states they want to help alleviate the current access problems, VA would be directed to contract with that doctor provided they participate in Medicare. Because this legislation requires VA to pay these providers at the Medicare rate, VA would be able to implement a standard contract for the care and services veterans receive and would allow VA to expeditiously implement a contract with that doctor and get veterans the care they need as soon as possible.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I wish to state for the record my strong support for S. 2450, the Veterans' Access to Care through Choice, Accountability, and Transparency Act of 2014. I also wish to state for the record that, though I was unfortunately already traveling to my son's high school graduation in Oregon at the time the vote was called, I would have voted aye on this legislation had I been present.

I was among the original cosponsors of this bill because I believe strongly that the VA system must do right by our veterans. Our veterans have stood up for us, and we must stand up for them.

Recent reports highlight the urgent need both for greatly increased accountability within the VA health system and for greater resources to meet the needs of increasing numbers of veterans who are turning to the VA for health care. The current situation of extremely long wait times—and in some cases, secret waiting lists—is 100 percent unacceptable and must be fixed. Those who are responsible for these failings or any efforts to cover them up should swiftly lose their jobs. If they broke the law, then they should be prosecuted as well. Going forward, we must ensure that the VA system has the doctors and the resources it needs to give our vets the timely, top-notch care they deserve.

This bill gives the VA the power both to fire the administrators who need to be held accountable and to hire the additional doctors and nurses needed to improve the system. In addition, it contains a bipartisan provision I have worked on with Senator HELLER to expand education benefits for spouses of servicemembers who die in the line of duty. These are important improvements for our veterans and their families, and I am proud to support them.

I am very pleased to see this legislation move forward. I wish to once again state again my strong support, and I urge the House to take up and pass this bill without delay.

2014 WORLD CUP

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, today the United States men's soccer team begins its quest for World Cup glory in Brazil. The 23 players selected by head coach Jürgen Klinsmann in-

clude native New Jerseyans Tim Howard, Michael Bradley, Jozy Altidore, and Alejandro Bedoya. They have dedicated themselves to being the best at their craft, and now have an opportunity to represent the United States of America at the world's premier soccer event.

The World Cup is an extraordinary tournament whose reach extends well beyond the pitch. It has the incredible ability to unify peoples in celebration and even halt civil conflict, as was seen temporarily in Côte d'Ivoire in 2006. I sincerely hope that moving into the future, the institution of the World Cup can be a symbol of increased international cooperation.

While many consider the U.S. a relatively recent addition to the global soccer community compared to our friends in Europe and South America, we actually finished third at the first ever World Cup held in Uruguay in 1930. I hope that this U.S. team will build upon our rich soccer history and represent our great Nation well in our seventh consecutive World Cup appearance. As our supporters say, "onward U.S.A.!"

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CLINTON COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Clinton County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Clinton County worth over \$25 million and has successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$26.5 million to the local economy.

Of course, my favorite memories of working together include working tirelessly with local law enforcement, particularly with regard to funding to combat the scourge of drugs in the community, as well as numerous major projects to improve infrastructure and transportation in the community.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Eastern Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Clinton County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Clinton County, I have fought for more than \$13.3 million to redevelop Liberty Square, more than \$2.6 million for the 19th Avenue Connector, \$2.1 million for trails between Clinton and Comanche, and more than \$4 million for sewer infrastructure, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updat-

ing fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Clinton County has received more than \$1.6 million in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Clinton County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$145,000.

Disaster mitigation and prevention: In 1993, when historic floods ripped through Iowa, it became clear to me that the national emergency-response infrastructure was woefully inadequate to meet the needs of Iowans in flood-ravaged communities. I went to work dramatically expanding the Federal Emergency Management Agency's hazard mitigation program, which helps communities reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and enables mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery period. Disaster relief means more than helping people and businesses get back on their feet after a disaster, it means doing our best to prevent the same predictable flood or other catastrophe from recurring in the future. The hazard mitigation program that I helped create in 1993 provided critical support to Iowa communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2008. Clinton County has received over \$2.5 million to prevent tragedy associated with natural disasters.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Clinton County has received more than \$1.5 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Keeping Iowa communities safe: I also firmly believe that our first responders need to be appropriately trained and equipped, able to respond to both local emergencies and to statewide challenges such as, for instance, the methamphetamine epidemic. Since 2001, Clinton County's fire departments have received over \$3.1 million for firefighter safety and operations equipment, and the law enforcement community has received more than \$77,000 in Byrne Justice Assistance grants, \$75,000 for drug free communities, \$185,000 in funds dedicated to methamphetamine hot spots, and \$15,000 to assist drug endangered children.

Disability rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television, but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Clinton County, both those with and without disabilities. They make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Clinton County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Clinton County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

WORTH COUNTY, IOWA

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